

5.15 Recreation

5.15.1 Environmental Setting

A desktop-level study provided an overview of recreational facilities located within 1 mile of the project alignment. A site visit of the project alignment and its vicinity was conducted in February 2018 to make additional observations, collect data, and confirm the existing conditions of open spaces, parks, and recreational resources in the proposed project area and vicinity.

The following public agencies and private organizations collectively manage recreational lands and facilities located within 1 mile of the proposed project area:

- City of San Diego Parks and Recreation Department;
- County of San Diego Parks and Recreation Department;
- City of Del Mar Parks and Recreation Committee;
- City of Solana Beach Parks and Recreation Department;
- State of California Department of Parks and Recreation; and
- Private organizations.¹

Thirty-four recreational facilities are within 1 mile of the project area (Google Earth Pro 2016; SDG&E 2017a). Recreational facilities are defined as public or open-access facilities that are primarily sites for passive or organized activities. Passive recreational activities emphasize the open space aspects of park facilities, and includes activities such as hiking, walking, birdwatching, and picnicking. Active recreational activities are generally associated with group sports or play activities, and often require dedicated program areas such as playgrounds, ball fields, community centers, swimming pools, etc. for the intended activity. Recreational facilities that support passive and/or active recreational activities in the project vicinity include:

- State, county, city, or private parks;
- Bicycle paths;
- Open space preserves;
- Hiking trails and walking paths;
- Campgrounds; and
- Community centers.

¹ Functionally private recreational facilities such as country clubs, private golf courses, and amusement parks are not typically included in a California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) recreation analysis; these types of uses, therefore, will not be discussed in this section, with the exception of the Surf and Turf RV Park, which would be adjacent to the proposed project's activities and to the Del Mar Fairgrounds, a public facility that is subject to a CEQA analysis with respect to recreation. Because potential impacts to both facilities would be similar, the Surf and Turf RV Park has been included in this analysis. See Table 5.15-1 for additional details.

Table 5.15-1 lists the recreational facilities in the project area, as well as the distance from the nearest project component or work area. In some instances, segments of existing project circuitry may intersect with or cross recreational facilities. Additionally, some isolated project components or work areas may be located entirely within an existing recreational facility. For a map of the recreational facilities described in Table 5.15-1, see Figure 5.15-1.

Recreational facilities that would be adjacent to, crossed by, or contained within portions of the project area include: Crest Canyon Open Space Park, Surf and Turf RV Park, Del Mar Heights School – Athletic Fields, the Del Mar Horse Park Equestrian Facility, the Del Mar Fairgrounds, Los Peñasquitos Lagoon, San Dieguito Lagoon, the San Dieguito Lagoon Ecological Reserve, San Dieguito River Park, Torrey Pines State Beach, Torrey Pines State Natural Reserve, and Sorrento Valley Pedestrian/Multi-Use Path.

5.15.2 Regulatory Setting

Federal

No federally managed recreational facilities are located within 1 mile of the project area. Therefore, no federal regulations or policies pertain to the proposed project with respect to recreation.

State

States are required to have Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plans in order to be eligible for federal Land and Water Conservation Fund Act grants. The 2008 California Outdoor Recreation Plan fulfills this requirement and provides a strategy for statewide outdoor recreation leadership and action to meet identified needs. The following policy is applicable to the proposed project (California State Parks 2008):

- **Preservation of natural and cultural resources:** Recreation areas should be planned and carefully managed to provide optimum recreation opportunities without damaging significant natural or cultural resources. Management actions should strive to correct problems that have the potential to damage sensitive areas and degrade resources.

Additionally, the San Diego Coastal State Park System General Plan contains policies pertaining to nine coastal state parks within the San Diego area. The Torrey Pines State Beach and State Reserve plan contains policies that are applicable to the proposed project and that are intended to address the goal of maintaining the area's recreational resource values. The policies pertain specifically to park development and not electrical transmission and distribution, and as such are not applicable to the proposed project (California Department of Parks and Recreation 1984).

Local

County and city plans, including community plans for San Diego County and the Cities of San Diego and Del Mar were reviewed for policies relevant to the proposed project and impacts as defined by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

Table 5.15-1 Recreational Facilities within One Mile of the Proposed Project Utility Corridor

Recreational Facility	Managing Agency	Activity/Feature	Distance (miles)	Feature ID ^(e)
21st Street Tennis Courts	Del Mar Parks & Recreation Committee	passive/active (sport)	0.28	1
Arroyo Sorrento Open Space	San Diego Parks and Recreation	passive	0.38	2
Carmel Grove Park	San Diego Parks and Recreation	passive	0.86	3
Carmel Valley Recreation Center	San Diego Parks and Recreation	passive/active (sport)	0.60	4
Carmel View Mini-Park	San Diego Parks and Recreation	passive	0.74	5
Coast View Mini-Park	San Diego Parks and Recreation	passive	0.28	6
Crest Canyon Neighborhood Park	San Diego Parks and Recreation	passive, hiking	0.35	7
Crest Canyon Open Space Park	San Diego Parks and Recreation	passive, hiking	crossed	8
Del Mar City Beach	Del Mar Parks and Recreation	active, swimming	0.39	9
Del Mar North Beach	Del Mar Parks and Recreation	passive recreation	0.50	10
Surf and Turf RV Park	Private	active, camping	adjacent	11
Del Mar Heights School ^(a)	Del Mar Union School District	active, sport/education	within	12
Del Mar Horse Park	22 nd District Agricultural Association	active, equestrian	crossed	13
Del Mar Fairgrounds	22 nd District Agricultural Association	active, fairground	adjacent	14
Del Mar Public Parkland	Del Mar Parks & Recreation Committee	passive, hiking	0.17	15
James Scripps Bluff Preserve	Del Mar Parks & Recreation Committee	passive	0.62	16
La Colonia Park	Solana Beach Parks and Recreation Commission	passive	0.39	17
Los Peñasquitos Lagoon	San Diego Parks and Recreation	passive,	crossed	18
Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve	San Diego Parks and Recreation	passive, hiking	0.52	19
Overlook Park ^(b)	San Diego Parks and Recreation	passive, hiking	0.11	20
Ocean Air Community Park	San Diego Parks and Recreation	passive/active (sport)	0.99	21
Powerhouse Park	San Diego Parks and Recreation	passive	0.57	22
San Dieguito County Park	San Diego Parks and Recreation	passive, hiking, sport	0.94	23
San Dieguito Lagoon	San Diego Parks and Recreation	passive, hiking	crossed	24
San Dieguito Lagoon Eco. Reserve	California Department of Fish and Wildlife	passive	crossed	25
Coast to Crest Trail ^(c)	Joint Powers Authority	passive, hiking	crossed	26
Seagrove Park	Del Mar Parks & Recreation Committee	passive	0.62	27
Solana Highlands Park	San Diego Parks and Recreation	passive/active (sport)	0.28	28

Table 5.15-1 Recreational Facilities within One Mile of the Proposed Project Utility Corridor

Recreational Facility	Managing Agency	Activity/Feature	Distance (miles)	Feature ID ^(e)
Torrey Hills Neighborhood Park	San Diego Parks and Recreation	passive/active (sport)	0.37	29
Torrey Hills Open Space	San Diego Parks and Recreation	passive/active (sport)	0.12	30
Torrey Pines Golf Course	City of San Diego	active, sport	0.64	31
Torrey Pines State Beach	California Department of Parks and Recreation	active, fishing	Adjacent ^(d)	32
Torrey Pines State Natural Reserve	San Diego Parks and Recreation	passive, hiking	crossed	33
Sorrento Valley Multi-Use Path	San Diego Public Works Department	passive, walking	crossed	34

Sources: City of San Diego 2018; County of San Diego 2018; San Dieguito River Park 2017; SDG&E 2017a, b

Notes

^(a) Athletic fields located on Del Mar Heights school grounds.

^(b) The Proponent's Environmental Assessment describes Overlook Park as North City West Open Space.

^(c) The Coast to Crest Trail is a countywide trail that is managed in segments by various agencies. The portion of the Coast to Crest Trail that would run adjacent to and intersect the proposed project is located within San Dieguito River Park, which is managed by the San Dieguito River Park Joint Powers Authority.

^(d) The Torrey Pines Fly Yard would be located within the North Beach Lot, a parking facility serving Torrey Pines State Beach.

^(e) See Figure 5.15-1.

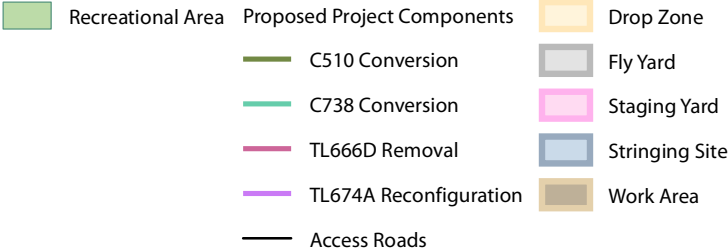
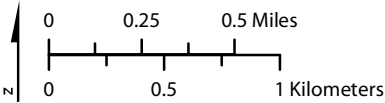


Figure 5.15-1
Recreational Areas
Within One Mile of
the Proposed Project Area
San Diego County, California
June 2018



Sources: CPAD 2017, San Diego Gas and Electric (SDG&E) 2018; Earth Systems Research Institute (ESRI) 2018

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California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) General Order 131-D, Section XIV.B, states that “local jurisdictions acting pursuant to local authority are preempted from regulating electrical power line projects, distribution lines, substations or electrical facilities constructed by public utilities subject to the Commission’s jurisdiction. However, in locating such projects, the public utilities shall consult with local agencies regarding land use matters.”

County of San Diego

San Dieguito County Park is the only recreational facility managed by San Diego County within 1 mile of the project area. San Diego County’s General Plan Conservation and Open Space Element contains goals and policies intended to ensure that adequate park and recreational facilities will serve current and future residents. Policy COS-23.1 requires that natural resources, including those associated with recreational facilities, be accessible to the public (County of San Diego 2016).

Additionally, San Dieguito County Park and the Sorrento Valley Pedestrian/Multi-Use Path have segments of trail networks that must comply with the Community Trails Master Plan and a Regional Trail Plan. The Coast to Crest Trail is partially located within the San Dieguito Lagoon within an east-west trail corridor that spans San Diego County (County of San Diego Planning and Development Services 2005). A segment of the Coast to Crest Trail lies within the project area immediately south of the Del Mar Fairgrounds. As illustrated on Figure 5.15-1, the trail segment crosses below Interstate 5, continues between the San Dieguito River and Via de la Valle and runs adjacent to Del Mar Horse Park. Countywide Policies in the Community Trails Master Plan indicate that discretionary projects proposed on trails or pathways governed by the Regional Trail Plan or Community Trails Master Plan may be required to dedicate and improve land for trails or pathways.

The San Dieguito River Park Concept Plan contains policies pertaining specifically to the San Dieguito River Park. The plan aims to maintain the area as a contiguous system of preserved lands with walking, biking, and equestrian trails, from the ocean to the river’s source. The plan divides the park into 14 separate landscape units. Project components are within the plan’s Landscape Unit A: Del Mar Coastal Lagoon area. The plan requires that grading and construction be minimized within the natural, open-space areas within the park (San Dieguito River Park Joint Powers Authority 2002).

City of San Diego

Policies within the City of San Diego General Plan’s Recreation Element are intended to develop, preserve, maintain, operate, and enhance public recreation facilities within the city. Goals pertaining to open space lands and resource-based parks aim to maintain the natural terrain and landscape, prevent encroachment of incompatible land uses for the purpose of maintaining and enhancing existing multi-use trail areas and ultimately establishing a contiguous system of bicycle and pedestrian paths. (City of San Diego 2015)

The city also has a Bicycle Master Plan, which contains goals and policies intended to enhance bicycle opportunities in San Diego for both recreational and transportation purposes. The Sorrento Valley Pedestrian/Multi-Use Path is a Class II Bikeway within the project area. Policy 3(d) from the Bicycle Master Plan requires that the existing city bikeway network be maintained and improved when feasible,

and also requires the bicycle transportation network be routinely reviewed in environmental assessments to assess impacts (City of San Diego 2013).

City of Del Mar

The Environmental Management section of the Del Mar Community Plan lists environmental management objectives and specific recommendations pertaining to certain public areas within the community, including recreational areas. This section requires mitigation for public access impacts to San Dieguito Lagoon and the San Dieguito River. Further, the plan lists development criteria intended to preserve open space sensitivities within San Dieguito Lagoon by preserving public access to pedestrian trails and maintaining compatibility of future proposals with the lagoon environment (City of Del Mar 1985).

5.15.3 Environmental Impacts and Assessment

Applicant Proposed Measures

SDG&E proposes APM REC-01 and -02 to address notification to the managing agencies of recreational facilities and to the public of temporary access restrictions that project construction may necessitate at the parks and recreational facilities in the project area.

APM REC-01: SDG&E will post signage at access points to recreational facilities that may be subject to access restrictions due to the proposed project no less than four weeks prior to the beginning of construction activities within or adjacent to the facilities. These facilities will include Torrey Pines State Natural Reserve, Torrey Pines State Beach, Del Mar Horse Park, and Sorrento Valley Pedestrian/Multi-Use Path. This signage will notify users of the impending construction activities; construction impacts (e.g., increased noise and dust); the affected locations; and the estimated duration of any necessary temporary closures or access restrictions. Contact information for the proposed project's public liaison will be provided on the signage, and the public liaison will address any complaints related to dust, noise, and access restrictions.

APM REC-02: Authorities representing facilities where access restrictions may occur (i.e., the California Department of Parks and Recreation and the City of San Diego) will be contacted and given advance notice of project activities no less than eight weeks prior to construction. SDG&E will also coordinate with the 22nd District Agricultural Association that manages and operates the Del Mar Horse Park no less than eight weeks prior to construction to minimize potential impacts to the facility and its users.

APM REC-02 (Revised), as revised in response to Data Request 01 by the CPUC (SDG&E 2017c), the applicant would notify authorities and managing agencies of recreational facilities of project activities prior to construction to ensure that the facility users are duly informed of service restrictions and or disruptions.

Significance Criteria

Table 5.15-2 includes the significance criteria from Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines' recreation section to evaluate the environmental impacts of the proposed project.

Table 5.15-2 Recreation Checklist

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a. Increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

a. Would the project increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?

The proposed project would directly alter the physical conditions within portions of two recreation facilities to accommodate construction staging, materials storage and helicopter uses associated with TL666D activities, including the removal of utility poles. The proposed project's Torrey Pines Fly Yard would be located in the North Beach Parking Lot at Torrey Pines State Beach. The Del Mar Heights Fly Yard would be located within the outdoor athletic field at Del Mar Heights Elementary School (Del Mar Heights School – Athletic Fields).

The applicant would use gravel as needed to level surfaces at Del Mar Heights Fly Yard. The yard would be located atop an existing softball field. In the context of criterion (a), above, the temporary use of Del Mar Heights School's softball field for the purpose of equipment staging during project construction could potentially cause physical deterioration of the facility associated with truck trips, material deposition, compaction, etc. At the Torrey Pines North Beach Lot, SDG&E proposes using the existing surface parking lot as a construction vehicle staging area and fly yard for helicopter operations.

These construction activities would restrict public access to the parking lot during active construction use. To prevent the potential for physical degradation to the facility or incidental damage to natural features in and around the park environment, the applicant shall incorporate **MM REC-01**. This measure would require the applicant to document pre-project conditions at both the Torrey Pines Fly Yard and Del Mar Heights Fly Yard, and to restore each space to conditions matching those at the onset of the proposed project. If it is determined that construction-related activities have substantially degraded the physical conditions either site, the applicant would restore work areas to pre-existing conditions.

MM REC-01: Documentation of Conditions. The applicant shall photograph pre-project conditions at the Torrey Pines and Del Mar Heights Fly Yards from multiple viewpoints to adequately represent pre-construction conditions at both sites. The applicant shall submit a portfolio of these images to CPUC staff and to appropriate representatives of Del Mar Heights Elementary School and Torrey Pines State Beach prior to the use of either facility for construction-related purposes.

Upon completion of project construction, the applicant shall restore the fly yard sites to pre-project conditions and submit a portfolio of "before and after" photographs documenting physical conditions

of each site, as applicable. The portfolio of images shall be submitted to the CPUC and to designated agents on behalf of Del Mar Heights School and Torrey Pines State Beach to ensure that the affected facilities are returned in satisfactory condition.

Project operations would involve routine and emergency maintenance, along with aerial and ground inspections at least once per year. No substantial increase in operation and maintenance activities compared to those occurring under existing conditions are anticipated following project completion. Reconfiguring Line C510 from an overhead to an underground alignment would eliminate the need to maintain this overhead line and maintenance activities would be restricted to its underground duct bank and associated risers. Removal of line TL666D would eliminate the need to conduct maintenance work on this line within Torrey Pines State Natural Reserve and within the San Dieguito Lagoon. Because the proposed project would involve the realignment of existing facilities with similar operations and maintenance requirements, the proposed project is not be expected to increase the use of recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration would occur.

Significance: Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation

b. Would the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?

The proposed project would entail reconfiguration and removal of electrical infrastructure and no new or expanded recreational facilities would be constructed as part of the proposed project. Therefore, the proposed project would not result in adverse physical changes to the environment related to the construction or expansion of recreational facilities, and no recreational impacts would occur.

Construction activities may temporarily limit the public's use of existing recreational facilities in the project area due to intermittent access disruptions caused by vehicle movement, materials staging, and site-specific safety and spatial requirements during the proposed project's anticipated 12-month construction period. The nearly 8-mile-long utility corridor extends across or runs adjacent to various recreational sites that would be occupied at least temporarily by construction vehicles that could limit or completely restrict access to facilities intermittently during construction. Figure 5.15-1 illustrates the facilities, including Del Mar Heights School, Torrey Pines State Beach, and others where temporary work spaces and buffer zones established for public safety may temporarily restrict public access and use of recreational facilities.

SDG&E proposes **APM REC-01** and **APM REC-02** to address advance notification to recreational facilities managers and the public related to temporary access restrictions that may be required at certain facilities during construction. Moreover, as presented in section 5.14, "Public Services," **APM PS-01** directs the applicant to coordinate with schools within 250 feet of project construction areas at least 60 days prior to construction commencing. The advance notice is intended to provide school officials sufficient time to develop alternate program activities as needed during the period when access to Del Mar Heights School's athletic fields would be restricted.

Significance: Less than Significant

References

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